

3. CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

CLAIM 1: A raffle computer for conducting an on-line raffle session, said computer being coupled to a plurality of remote computers accross a computer network; said computer comprising:

- a. one or more processors;
- b. a data base for storing previously registered plurality of articles and registrants;
- c. a data base for storing previously registered plurality of raffle ticket purchasers;
- d. a communication component for receiving said plurality of articles and registrants registration from said plurality of remote computers and sending the received articles and registrants registration to said processor;
- e. wherein, said processor receiving said plurality of articles and registrants registration, categorizes a plurality of articles into a raffle directory;
- f. a communication component for receiving said plurality of raffle ticket purchasers from said plurality of remote computers and sending the raffle ticket purchases to said processor;
- g. wherein, said processor determines each raffle ticket purchase for each article and stores the determined totals in said raffle ticket purchaser data base;
- h. wherein, after a threshold number of sold raffle tickets is reached, a winning raffle ticket number is selected and matched to said raffle ticket purchaser data base to declare a winner.

CLAIM 2: The computer of claim 1, wherein said processor creates registration records in said plurality of articles and registrants data base, wherein, each registration record corresponds to an article and registrant account created by registrants using said remote computers, wherein, each article and registrant account comprises, an article, an article identification number, a registrant name, and a registrant identification number.

CLAIM 3: The computer of claim 1, wherein said processor creates registration records in said plurality of raffle ticket purchasers data base, wherein each registration record corresponds to a raffle ticket purchaser account created by raffle ticket purchasers using said remote computers, wherein each raffle ticket purchaser account comprises a purchaser name, a purchaser address, a purchaser identification number, and a financial account identification number.

CLAIM 4: The computer of claim 3, wherein said communication component receives, with each raffle ticket purchase, the name and identification of the raffle ticket purchaser who purchases a raffle ticket, and said processor verifies if the name and identification number match said registration record stored in said raffle ticket purchaser data base, and records the ticket purchase record in the data base if the name and identification numbers have a verified match.

CLAIM 5: The computer of claim 4, wherein said processor determines if the determined total raffle ticket purchases exceeds a threshold number of tickets to be sold for said article, if the determined total exceeds a threshold number of tickets sold said processor:

- a. declares the raffle session, for said article closed;
- b. sends the total ticket numbers sold to a winning ticket number selector;
- c. determines a winning ticket number by selection means;
- d. retrieves the recorded ticket purchases records for said article;
- e. determines said raffle ticket purchaser account that corresponds to the retrieved ticket purchase number record; and
- f. notifies the raffle ticket purchaser that they have won the article raffled.

CLAIM 6: The computer of claim 1, wherein after said processor updates a total number of said raffle ticket purchases associated with a said article, said processor sends said updated total number or raffle ticket purchases associated with the article through said communication component and said computer network to said plurality of remote computers associated with the article and raffle ticket purchaser.

CLAIM 7: The computer of claim 5, wherein said updated ticket numbers are sent as percentages instead of actual number of

raffle tickets sold in order to keep the updated total number of raffle tickets sold confidential.

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